

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tube bending fixture comprising:
  - a frame,
  - a lower tube support pivotally mounted to said frame between a first and a second position about a first axis,
  - an upper tube support pivotally mounted to said frame between a first and a second position about a second axis,
  - a bar slidably mounted to said upper tube support and movable between an extended and a retracted position,  
at least one a plurality of lower mandrel mandrels mounted to said lower tube support,  
each lower mandrel and dimensioned to fit within one end of a tube to be bent,  
at least one a plurality of upper mandrel mandrels mounted to said bar, one of said upper and one of said lower mandrels being aligned with each other when said upper and lower tube supports are in said first pivotal position, each said upper mandrel dimensioned to fit within a second end of the tube to be bent when said bar is in said extended position, each said upper mandrel being spaced from the second end of the tube to be bent when said bar is in said retracted position,
  - a lock mechanism which selectively retains said upper and lower tube supports in said second pivotal position,  
a first gear secured to said lower tube support coaxial with said first axis and a second gear secured to said upper tube support coaxial with said second axis, wherein said first and

second gear are in mesh with each other so that said upper tube support and said cover tube support pivot in unison with each other relative to said frame.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The invention as defined in claim [[2]] 1 wherein said lock mechanism comprises a lock pin mounted to said frame which selectively engages an opening in one of said tube supports when said tube supports are in said second pivotal position.

4. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said frame is U-shaped having two spaced apart and parallel side frame members and a bottom frame member.

5. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein said lower tube support is U-shaped having two spaced apart and parallel side members and a bottom member.

6. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 5 and comprising a crossbar extending between said side members of said lower tube support and means for adjustably securing said crossbar to said side members of said lower tube support, wherein said at least one lower mandrel is mounted to said crossbar.

7. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 6 wherein said adjustable securing means comprises a slot formed in each side member of said lower tube support and a pair of fasteners, one fastener extending through each slot and engaging said crossbar.

8. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 and comprising at least one former attached to said frame, said former having a channel which engages an intermediate port of a tube mounted to said upper and lower mandrels, said channel conforming in desired shape to the tube when said upper and lower tube supports are in said second pivotal position.

9. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 8 wherein said lower mandrel includes a bendable portion which registers with said former.

10. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 9 wherein said bendable portion of said lower mandrel comprises a spring.

11. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 9 wherein said bendable portion of said lower mandrel comprises a corrugated metal section.

12. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 and comprising a spring-loaded mount which secures said lower mandrel to said lower tube support.

13. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 and comprising a spring-loaded mount which secures said upper mandrel to said bar.